

9 JUL 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, New Building Communications Program  
Engineering Division, Office of Communications

FROM: [redacted]  
Chief, Safety Division,  
Office of Medical Services

SUBJECT: Fire Protection Requirements for Power and  
Communications Cable in Electrical Equipment  
Raised Floor Spaces

1. It has come to the attention of the Fire Protection Branch, Safety Division, that the 1987 edition of the National Electrical Code contains a revision that will require all raised floor spaces in computer/communications centers to use non-toxic and non-flammable cable. This revision apparently conflicts with the current plan for using cables containing PVC insulation. Although the exact wording of the revision and any applicable exceptions are not known at this time, it is expected that this will have a significant impact upon the cost of the new building communications project. A potential alternative to this requirement would be to provide an underfloor fire suppression system in the affected rooms. Additional information on this development will be provided as it becomes available.

2. If there are any questions, please contact [redacted]  
[redacted] Chief, Fire Protection Branch, on extension  
[redacted] secure.

Signed